

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 DOE-11
SOE-02 /106 W
-----077095 111700Z /14

R 101454Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 0721

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS, JO
SUBJ: WEST BANK REACTION TO DAYAN'S SUGGESTION THAT ISRAEL
IMPLEMENT BEGIN PLAN

REF: TEL AVIV 3022

1. DAYAN'S RECENT SUGGESTION THAT GOI MIGHT UNILATERALLY
IMPLEMENT BEGIN SELF-RULE PLAN (REPORTED REFTTEL) GAVE WEST
BANKERS ANOTHER CHANCE TO COMMENT ON PLAN. HOWEVER, THEY
HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO THIS OPPORTUNITY AND ONLY MINIMAL
REACTION HAS BEEN NOTED. THIS MAY BE DUE IN PART TO FACT THAT
BEGIN SEEMED TO PUT DOWN DAYAN'S SUGGESTION AS "PRIVATE
OPINION," THUS REDUCING ANY WEST BANK CONCERN THAT GOI MAY BE
SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THIS STEP IN NEAR FUTURE.

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2. "JERUSALEM POST" REPORTED NEGATIVE REACTION OF
BETHLEHEM'S MAYOR FREIJ REITERATING HIS PRVIOUS VIEW THAT
ACCEPTING BEGIN PLAN IS TANTAMOUNT TO ACQUIESCING
IN CONTINED OCCUPATION. IN TALK WITH HALHUL'S MAYOR
MILHIM HE DISMISSED SELF-RULE PLAN AS UNWORTHY OF DISCUSSION
AND HAD NO REACTION TO DAYAN'S SUGGESTION OF UNILATTERAL

IMPLEMENTATION. ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS "AL QUDS"
(MODERATE, PRO-JORDANIAN) WHICH SAW DAYAN'S COMMENTS AS
A THREAT WHICH COULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY ISRAEL AT
ANY TIME IRRESPECTIVE OF OUTSIDE OPINION--U.S.,
ARAB OR OTHER.

3. COMMENT: WEST BANKERS CONTINUE TO TREAT BEGIN PLAN
AS NOT A SUGGESTION FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSION. CONVERSA-
TIONS WHICH TOUCH ON BEGIN PLAN USUALLY END QUICKLY
WITH THE WEST BANKERS CHARACTERIZING IT AS "DE FACTO
ANNEXATION" OR "LEGITIMIZATION OF THE OCCUPATION."
ALTHOUGH INDEPENDENT THINKERS, HAVE PRESENTED PRIVATELY SOME
IDEAS ON WEST BANKERS FUTURE THERE IS STILL GENERAL UNWILLINGNESS
ON PART OF WEST BANKERS TO DISCUSS BEGIN PLAN OR TO PRESENT
OTHER ALTERNATIVES.
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